

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
equipment mounting hardware; and attachment devices for securing said
equipment mounting hardware to said spine member.

2. (Withdrawn) A carrier system for transporting equipment, said carrier
comprising:
a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a securing member for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
a first set of equipment mounting hardware;
an attachment mechanism for removably securing said first set of equipment
mounting hardware directly to said spine member;
a second set of equipment mounting hardware; and
a second attachment mechanism for removably securing said second set of
equipment mounting hardware directly to said spine member with said cargo platform
removed.

3. (Withdrawn) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said first set of equipment
mounting hardware comprises:
a cargo carrying platform.

4. (Withdrawn) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said second set of
equipment mounting hardware includes:
bicycle mounting hardware.

5. (Withdrawn) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said second set of equipment mounting hardware includes:

at least one channel member mounted transversely on said spine member; and
bicycle mounting hardware attached to said at least one channel member.

6. (Withdrawn) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said carrier system includes:

said first set of equipment mounting hardware includes a cargo platform; and said second set of equipment mounting hardware includes at least one channel member mounted onto said cargo platform.

7. (Withdrawn) A carrier system for transporting equipment, said carrier system comprising:

a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a securing member for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
a cargo platform;
an attachment mechanism for removably securing said cargo platform directly to said spine member;
bicycle mounting hardware; and
a second attachment mechanism for removably securing said bicycle mounting hardware directly to said spine member with said cargo platform removed.

8. (Withdrawn) The carrier system of claim 7 wherein said bicycle mounting hardware includes:

at least one channel member transversely mounted onto said spine member.

9. (Withdrawn) A carrier system for transporting equipment, said carrier system comprising:

a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a securing member for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;

a cargo platform;
an attachment mechanism for removably securing said cargo platform directly to said spine member;
at least one channel member for carrying a bicycle; and
a second attachment mechanism for removably securing said at least channel member transversely and directly to said spine member with the removal of said cargo platform.

Claim 10. (amended) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
a spine member ~~removably~~ removable engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
equipment mounting hardware;
said equipment mounting hardware includes a platform removably mounted onto said spine member;
a ~~flexible~~ cover removably mountable on said platform for protecting the equipment from damage or theft; and
attachment devices for securing said equipment mounting hardware to said spine member.

Claim 11. (amended) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said ~~equipment mounting hardware further includes cover~~ is comprised of:
~~an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said platform~~ a durable material.

Claim 12. (amended) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said ~~equipment mounting hardware further includes cover~~ is comprised of:
an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said spine member.

Claim 13. (amended) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said equipment mounting hardware further includes:
elongated members having "C" shaped channels;

said "C" shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said "C" shaped channels; and

a mounting mechanism engaged against said inverted rim for securing said equipment mounting hardware formed therein mountable onto said spine member.

14. (canceled)

15. (amended) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:

a spine member removably ~~removable~~ engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;

a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;

equipment mounting hardware;

said equipment mounting hardware includes at least one elongated member having a C shaped channel mountable onto said spine member; ~~and~~

said "C" shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said C shaped channels; and

at least one mounting mechanism engaged against said inverted rim for securing said equipment mounting hardware.

~~attachment devices for securing said equipment mounting hardware to said spine member.~~

16. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said spine member.

17. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member.

18. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member; and

a flexible cover mountable onto said platform.

19. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member; and
an enclosed box-mountable onto said platform.

20. (canceled)

21. (new) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
mounting hardware for mounting equipment to said carrier;
said mounting hardware includes at least one elongated member having a C shaped channel;

said C shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said C shaped channels;

at least one mounting mechanism for attaching said mounting hardware to said C shaped channels; and

said at least one mounting mechanism containing an indent for engaging with said inverted rim.

22. (new) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said cover includes:
a flexible cover.